Pakistan's prepaaiton for a nuclear war against India

2278. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is preparing for a nuclear war against India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have come across media reports of a statement attributed to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan at Tashkent on January 8, 1994 to the effect that unless Kashmir issue is resolved under the UN resolutions, there is a danger of a nuclear war.

(b) and (c) The Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman subsequently clarified that the the Foreign Minister of Pakistan only referred to the danger of another war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir issue.

Government regard such posturing and rhetoric adopted by Pakistan as a manifestation of Pakistan's negative approach. Government are aware of Pakistan's clandestine and weapons-oriented unclear programme and constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Protection of Rights of Sikhs in India

2279. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that US President has made a statement in a letter addressed to a US Congressman that peaceful solution is required to protect rights of Sikhs;

(b) if so, whether India has taken up the matter with the US Administration;

(c) if so, what was the US reaction; and

(d) whether this is likely to affect the Indo-US relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In a meeting with Ambassador Ray, US Assistant Secretary Robin Raphel stated that the US has never accepted the concept of Khalistan and have not and will not challenge the territorial integrity of India. The US believes that the situation in Punjab has dramatically improved in the last year and a half.

(d) While maintaining India's interests in all circumstances, Government continue to promote friendly, mutually cooperative and productive relations with all countries, including the USA.

Pressure tactics by U.S.A.

2280. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various pressure tactics being adopted by the United State recently, and

(b) What has been India's response so far to the various statements of U.S. officials on Jammu and Kashmir and other issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFIARS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Differences of approach between India and the USA in a number of areas have engaged Government's attention.

(b) Government of India have reiterated their commitment to restore normalcy and protect and promote the human rights of their innocent and law abiding citizens